

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1186
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the
Sam Davis Monument in Pulaski, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize those monuments that honor and commemorate the lives of individuals who have contributed significantly to the rich and varied history of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable monument is the Sam Davis Monument in Pulaski, Tennessee, which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on October 11, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Sam Davis, the “Boy Hero of the Confederacy,” was a native of Middle Tennessee, and he attended the Military Academy in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, Sam Davis joined the Rutherford Rifles, a local militia group of Company I, 1st Tennessee Infantry, which traveled to West Virginia to fight under the command of General Robert E. Lee; and

WHEREAS, in 1862, he returned home and joined the Coleman’s Scouts, a cavalry company which was commanded by Captain Henry B. Shaw, a former teacher of Sam Davis; and

WHEREAS, assigned to gather information on federal forces in Tennessee, Davis was captured on November 20, 1863, in Giles County; and

WHEREAS, when he was captured, Sam Davis carried with him a letter written to the Provost Marshal of the Army of Tennessee and several newspapers from Captain Shaw that were to be delivered to army headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Sam Davis was charged with spying and carrying mails to persons in arms against the United States; he pleaded not guilty to the charge of spying but entered a guilty plea to the second charge; he was convicted of both counts and sentenced to be hanged; and

WHEREAS, as he stood before the noose, Sam Davis was offered his freedom if he would reveal the name of the person who gave him the papers; and

WHEREAS, Sam Davis replied, "I would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend or be false to duty"; he was then executed; and

WHEREAS, Sam Davis's statement became a touchstone of the mythology of the "Lost Cause" in the postwar South, and numerous monuments commemorating his loyalty and bravery have been erected to honor his memory; and

WHEREAS, located in the Pulaski town square, the Sam Davis Monument was unveiled on October 11, 1906, as part of a Tennessee State reunion of Confederate veterans; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to honor the memory of Sam Davis and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Sam Davis Memorial in Pulaski; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Sam Davis Monument in Pulaski, Tennessee, and commend the citizens of Tennessee who honor his memory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.